

CARMEN'S WEDDING

Bride and groom had
left the church with
six bridesmaids
trailing them

Father Arthur shooed
chatty guests from the
crowded vestibule

Head on over to the hall
he directed
that's where the celebrating
will begin

Outside the church
a carnation from a maid's
bouquet
lay fragrant on the walk

Carmen's little retarded sister
picked up the flower
and put it in her hair
said, Here comes the bride

QUANDARY

It was pure cherrywood
and Aunt Lyda's pride and joy
a china closet filled with
painted cups and bowls
kimonoed dolls with chalkwhite
faces red spots on their cheeks
and shoeblack hair
mementoes of fifty years

Aunt Lyda never could accept
the fact the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor
even after her grandson was killed
at Iwo Jima
she would stand before the china
closet and try to console herself

Such pretty things
she would repeat
how could people make such
pretty things
and do what they done to us